increased to 10.5 Million Tonnes per annum from its present capacity of 6.5 Million Tonnes per annum as a result of this expansion project.

(c) For none of these projects, assistance was sought on turnkey basis.

Assistance sought by CIL for thick seam underground mining

6742. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited is seeking assistance from France and England for thick seam underground mining; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal India Ltd. is presently getting assistance of CDFI, France, for thick seam underground mining at Kotadih mine of Eastern Coal fields Ltd., wherein the technology for extraction of 4.5 metres thick coal seam using single shoe Longwal method is being tried. The extraction of coal has started since July, 1994. However, presently there is no other proposal for seeking assistance for thick seam underground mining from either France or England.

Violation of Collery Control Order, 1945

6743. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Colliery Control Order, 1945 has been violated;

(b) if so, how many cases have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) whether any punishment has been given to those who have violated it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Under the provisions of Colliery Control Order, 1945 (as amended from time to time) coal companies supply coal to actual users on the basis of linkages established and/or on the basis of sponsorships issued by the sponoring authorities. Unauthorised diversion/resale of coal obtained by actual users for their own use is an offence punishable under the Essential Commodities Act.

The office of Coal Controller does not appear to have received any complaints regarding violations of Colliery Control Order. However in case of violation of the provisions of the Colliery Control Order, 1945 by way of unauthorised diversion/resale of sponsored coal action has to be taken by the State spossoring authorities/law and order enforcing agencies, under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act.

News items noncerning PSUs handling coal

6744. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI G. S. SWELL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the "Indian Express" dated the 1st May, 1995 under the caption "Scandal in Bihar PSUs take the fire out of Bofors";

(b) if so, what is the response of Government regarding the coal shortage, adulteration of coal and supply of coal high content of ash and clay;

(c) whether it is a fact that Rs. 100 crore have been lost by public sector units handling coal during the last few years;